

Message Text

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16

ACTION MMS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 TRSE-00 SCA-01 PER-05 ABF-01 SS-20

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R 190757Z FEB 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9616

UNCLAS HONG KONG 1793

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, CASC

SUBJECT: OPRED - PROPOSAL TO EXPAND OVERSEAS STAFF OF INTERNAL
REVENUE SERVICE

REF: STATE 25398

THE CONGEN HAS MADE EVERY EFFORT TO KEEP AMERICAN GOVERNMENT PRESENCE
IN HONG KONG TO A MINIMUM. TWO MAJOR FACTORS ARE: THE PRESIDENT'S
DIRECTIVE OF JULY 16, 1970 REGARDING CONTROLLING THE NUMBER OF US
GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES OVERSEAS AND THE EXTREMELY HIGH COST OF LIVING
IN HK. THE LATTER REASON AND THE SHORTAGE OF OFFICE SPACE WERE SOME
OF THE PRIME FACTORS THAT PROMPTED THE DEPT OF STATE FOREIGN SERVICE
INSPECTORS DURING THEIR INSPECTION OF THE POST IN MARCH 1973 TO
RECOMMEND THE MOVE OF SOME EXISTING REGIONAL OFFICES FROM HK. THE
FOLLOWING ARE ESTIMATED COST AND LOGISTIC FACTORS:

1. OFFICE SPACE WITHIN THE CONGEN OFFICE BUILDING IS PRESENTLY VERY
TIGHT AND THEREFORE DOES NOT PERMIT ADDITIONS. SPACE IN THE ST. JOHNS

BUILDING LOCATED ACROSS FROM THE CONGEN COULD POSSIBLED BE ARRANGED AT

AN ANNUAL RENTAL COST OF APPROXIMATELY US DOLS 10,000 FOR 840 SQUARE
FEET. OFFICE FURNISHINGS WOULD AMOUNT TO US DOLS 4,000.

2. APARTMENT RENTALS WOULD ROUND OUT AT AN AVERAGE OF US DOLS 15,500
EACH, INCLUDING UTILITIES WITH HOUSEHOLD FURNISHINGS AVERAGING US DOLS

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5,500 EACH.

3. SCHOOLING FOR DEPENDENT CHILDREN COST ABOUT US DOLS 1,200 EACH CHILD.

4. PARTIAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT COULD BE PROVIDED.

5. BASED ON THE FOREGOING IT IS BELIEVED THAT IN THE INTEREST OF ECONOMY AND OTHER FACTORS THAT IRS SHOULD SEEK A REGIONAL HEAD-QUARTERS ELSEWHERE WITHIN THE TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION PLANNED.
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Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: N/A
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